

DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

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The demographic situation and human capital have always been important factors of socio-economic growth. People are the main input of most development models. Because of different conditions, the demographic situation in countries around the world is changing and has to be looked at systematically. The most serious demographic challenges for the eastern European Union countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania) include falling fertility rates and rising emigration rates. As a consequence, together with ever higher life expectancy, the number of inhabitants of working age will be falling and of retirement age will be growing. By 2050 the old-age dependency ratio will have grown by more than 50%: from an average of 23.6 to 52.4. The European Commission and countries' governments observe those negative trends and try to respond to them in official documents. At the European level it is the Europe 2020 Strategy – the most important strategic document setting goals for the development of EU countries in the following years [Europe 2020, 2010].

The aim of this presentation is to discuss:

1. Current demographic changes in eastern European Union countries compared with the world and Europe in general;
2. Tendencies in fertility rates and migration levels in eastern EU countries;
3. Demographic forecasts for the next 50 years for Poland and eastern EU countries;
4. Response to the demographic challenges in EU in the Europe 2020 Strategy and public policies.

The presentation is based on the data of the United Nations [unstats.un.org], Eurostat [ec.europa.eu/eurostat] and an ESPON project [D. Kupiszewska, M. Kupiszewski, 2014], as well as on selected scientific publications on demographic issues in Poland and the eastern European Union [Population projection, 2014, M. Okólski, 2015]. It includes insightful maps, graphs and tables.

References

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5. Population projection 2014-2050, 2014. Central Statistical Office (GUS), Warsaw.
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DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION OF BUZAU CITY ON THE TURN OF THE 20th CENTURY AND BEGINNING OF THE 21st CENTURY

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After 1989, as most cities of Romania, Buzău witnessed important demographic changes in terms of number of inhabitants, natural movement of population (natality and mortality), as well as territorial movement (migration). Consequently, the demographic situation of the country can be expressed by the demographic situation of its cities.

The aim of this paper is to analyze the demographic parameters concerning Buzău city, between 1990 and 2011, which visibly shows the risk faced by many countries in the Central and Eastern Europe: population ageing.

The city of Buzău, the capital of the County of Buzău in the south-east of Romania, is located on the right bank of the river with the same name, in a contact area between Baragan Plain and the Carpathians.

At the 2002 census the population of Buzău city was 134.227 inhabitants, while in 2011 was only 115.494 inhabitants [1].

There was an upward trend after the communist regime (Figure 1), due to the positive natural increase and migration to the county capital city, Buzău, which became a pole of attraction for young people free to move to any field.